

REMARKS

Claims 20 and 22-29 are pending in the application, claims 21 and 30-37 being canceled herein. Claims 1-19 were previously canceled. Claim 20 is the only independent claim.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by published European patent application document No. EP 118,613 (Vohrer).

Claims 20 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vohrer in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,920,049 to Lippert.

Claims 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vohrer in view of Lippert and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,977,440 to Phillippi.

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vohrer in view of Lippert and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,332,160 to Ruskin.

Claims 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vohrer in view of Phillippi.

Claims 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vohrer in view of Ruskin.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

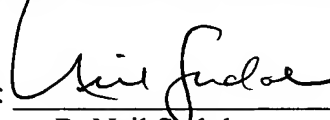
In response to the various rejections of the claims under §§ 102 and 103, applicant amends claim 20 herein to incorporate the limitations of claim 21, which has been canceled. Claim 21 as so amended is equivalent to claim 21 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Pursuant to the indication made by the Examiner amended claim 20 is patentable over the prior art. For the same reason, the claims dependent from amended claim 20 are deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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